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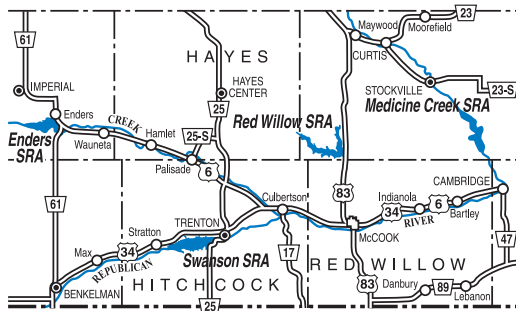
The four lakes and surrounding lands cover some 28,750 acres, with 10,159 acres of water. That means a lot of recreational opportunity for Nebraskans and their nonresident guests. In fact, nearly a quarter of a million people use these areas each year.

Built between 1949 and 1962, the four impoundments are the backbone of the Frenchman-Cambridge Division of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Project for flood control and irrigation. Three irrigation districts (H&RW, Frenchman-Cambridge, and Frenchman Valley) are responsible for the storage and delivery of the water to irrigate project lands.

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the Southwest Reservoirs

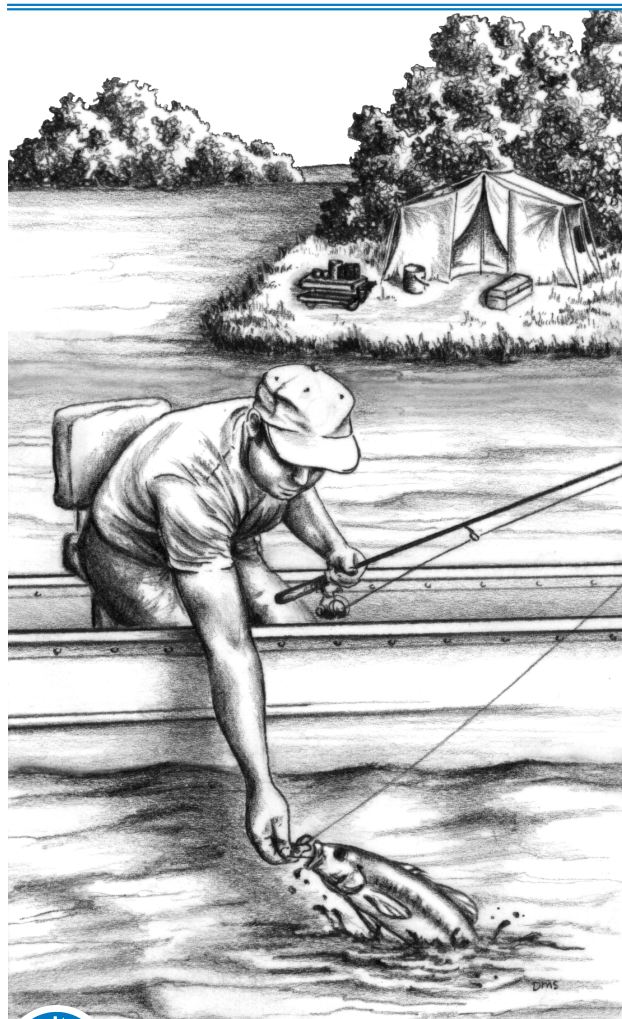


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Enders ■ Medicine Creek
Red Willow ■ Swanson

the Southwest Reservoirs

State Recreation Areas



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
www.OutdoorNebraska.org

Medicine Creek SRA

Rated by many visitors as one of Nebraska's loveliest recreation spots, Medicine Creek State Recreation Area and wildlife lands encompass some 8,500 acres of public land and water in southeast Frontier County, 2 miles west and 7 miles north of Cambridge. The dam on Medicine Creek is a zoned, earth-filled structure 165 feet high and 5,665 feet long. At the top conservation pool, the lake covers 1,850 surface acres, with 29 miles of shoreline. Completed in 1949, the dam is 30 feet across top and 840 feet thick at the base. Water stored irrigates some 16,630 acres of land.

A long narrow lake, much of which is shaded by mature stands of trees and lush underbrush, Medicine Creek offers outdoor buffs plenty of recreational opportunity, plus solitude and plenty of private spots to get away from it all. Long bays that pocket the winding shore and the small islands provide fishermen with hot spots for king-sized crappie and other panfish. In early spring, walleye start hitting back in the shallows, but the walleye fishing really begins in June in the main body of the lake.

White bass fishermen find some real enjoyment taking these scrappy fighters from the deep water early in the summer and later off the top, when the shad hatch develops in July and August. The headwaters and most of the lake's accessible shoreline provide some hefty channel cats and an occasional flathead. Wiper fishing (white bass x striped bass hybrid) is gaining in popularity.

In the fall, hunters find that Medicine Creek is one of the finest public hunting areas in the state. Its wildlife lands lie in the heart of southwest Nebraska's pheasant and quail range. Over 5,500 acres have been extensively managed for wildlife habitat. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation have planted over 50,000 trees and shrubs in recent years, concentrating on plantings that will benefit both game and nongame species.

Mature stands of trees give bow hunters ample opportunity to zero in on the numerous white-tailed deer that roam the area, and firearm hunters enjoy excellent sport each year on both whitetails and mule deer. There is also a growing population of Merriam's turkeys in the creek area.

Facilities at Medicine Creek for camping and picnicking range from the most modern to just the essentials. Shady Bay Campground on Trail

Medicine Creek *(continued)*

No. 4 on the east side of the lake has 76 hard-surfaced camping pads. Most are shaded, and there are 68 electrical hookups, of which 44 have 30-amp electric, and 24 have 50-amp electric. A top-notch camping spot, Shady Bay also has showers, modern restrooms, boat ramps, fish cleaning station, swimming beach, dump station, water wells, and barbeque grills.

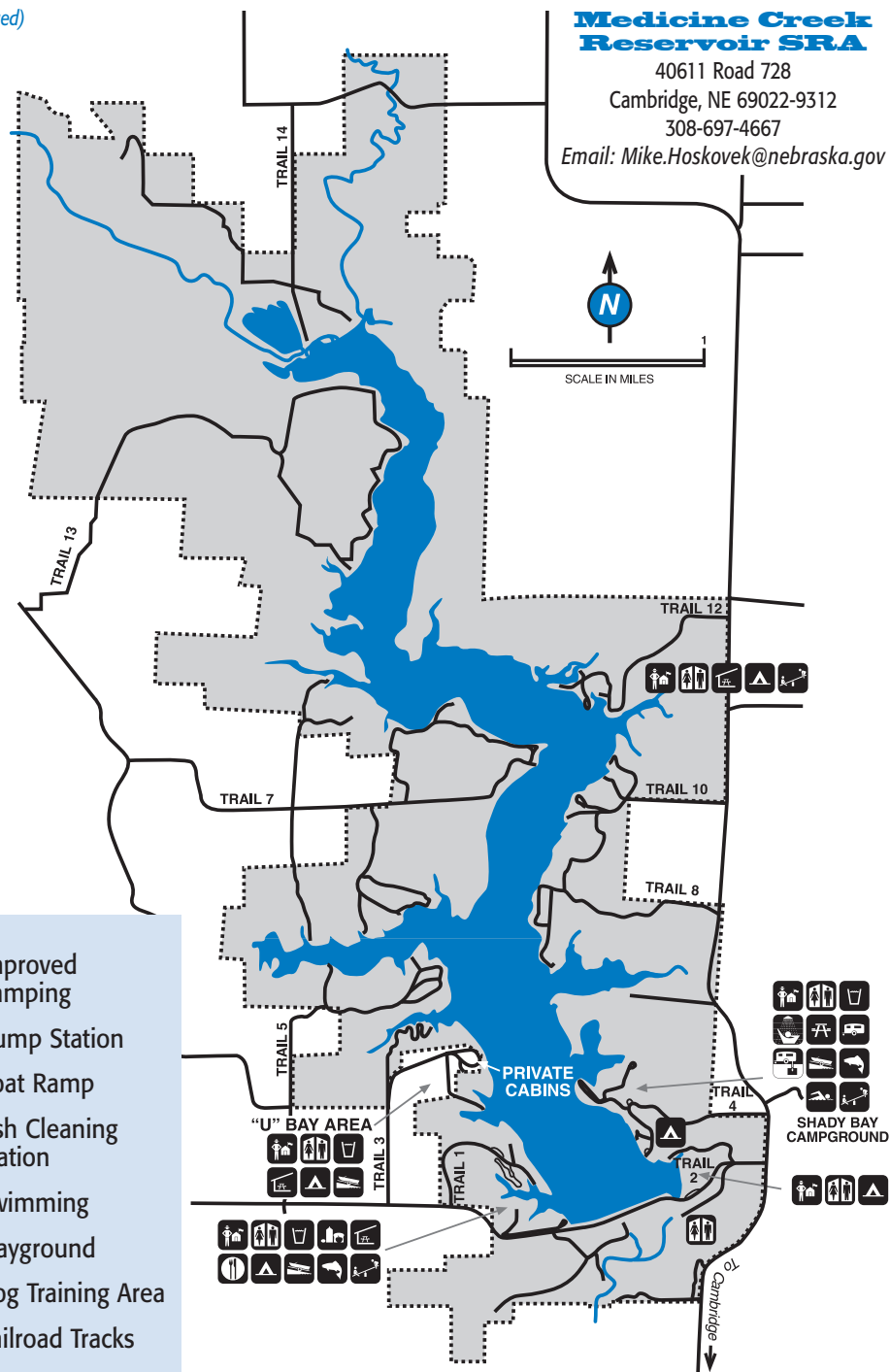
More camping is located on Trail No. 1, where there are modern restrooms, picnic shelters, drinking water, parking, fish cleaning station, and boat ramps. There are more boat ramps on Trail No. 3 and other camping sites scattered around the lake that have trail road access.

Medicine Creek Lodge, the private concession on the south side of the dam on Trail No.1, offers a restaurant, groceries, camping supplies, bait, tackle, gas, modern air-conditioned cabins, and hunting, fishing, and park entry permits.

There are primitive camping sites with picnic shelters, barbeque grills, picnic tables and vault toilets at Trails 1, 2, 3, 4 and 12.

Legend

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Camper Registration | Improved Camping |
| Restrooms/Toilets | Dump Station |
| Drinking Water | Boat Ramp |
| Food Service | Fish Cleaning Station |
| Concession | Swimming |
| Shower | Playground |
| Picnic Area | Dog Training Area |
| Picnic Shelter | Railroad Tracks |
| Camping | |



Swanson SRA

On the Republican River, 2 miles west of Trenton on U. S. 34, Swanson Lake offers boaters and fishermen 4,974 acres of crystal clear water at top conservation pool. Nearly another 4,000 acres of public land are managed by the Game and Parks Commission for outdoor recreation and wildlife. The zoned, earth-filled dam, completed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 1953, is 144 feet high and 8,620 feet long, measures 30 feet across at the top and 800 feet thick at its base. The largest of the four Southwest Reservoirs, it stores water to irrigate some 16,440 acres of land.

The water clarity of the lake appeals to both boaters and anglers. Trophy-size northern pike lurk among the submerged willows and along the face of the dam. Swanson is also known for its large, numerous walleye and growing population of black bass.

Crappie fishermen can do well in the shallows during spawning season, but the real draw is the large schools of white bass from July through September. Anglers cruise the shoreline and watch the gulls. When the birds concentrate and begin feeding on the shad, the fishermen move their boats into the action. White bass will be directly beneath the shad, pushing them to the surface. The correct, well-placed bait will yield a white bass virtually every cast. To make cleaning the catch easier, the Commission has provided, fish cleaning stations at the Spring Canyon Campground and Macklin Bay areas.

Spring Canyon offers top-notch camping facilities, with modern restrooms and showers, 50 rock-surfaced pads (45 with 30-amp electrical hook-ups), and large parking lot. There are two boat ramps and a mooring dock in the well-sheltered bay. Located nearby, the area concession offers food, groceries, bait, tackle, water ski equipment, gas, hunting, fishing and park entry permits, and a trailer court with electrical hookups.

There are dump stations at both Spring Canyon and the other modern campground at Macklin Bay, another protected cove. U.S. 34 crosses the northern tip of Macklin Bay, which has 17 campsites with 30-amp electrical hook-ups, modern restrooms and showers. Both Spring Canyon and Macklin offer barbecue grills and easily accessible water wells.

(continued)

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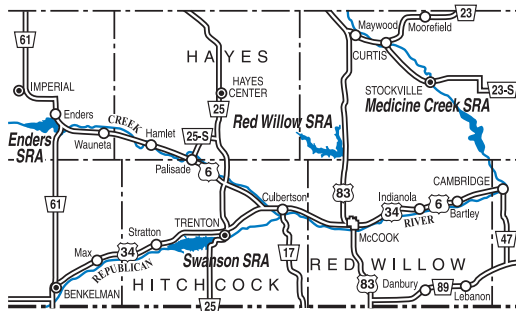
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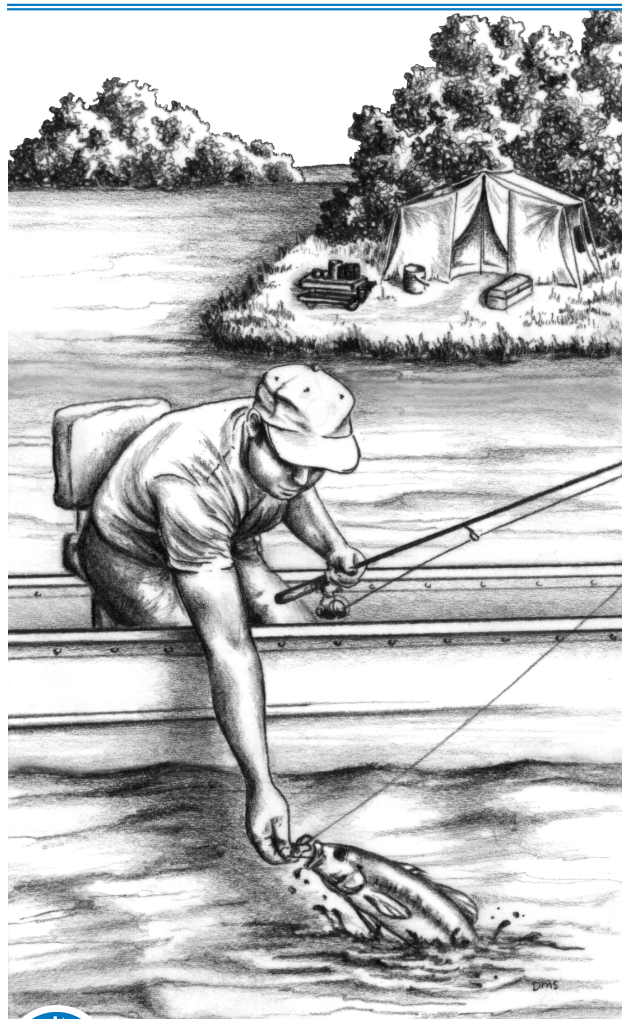


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Swanson (continued)

Picnic shelters and some less developed camping sites are located near the concession, while picnic shelters and tent camping sites are scattered around the lake. There are barbecue grills and vault toilets along many trail roads.

In fall and winter, hunters pursue waterfowl, upland game birds, and deer, while anglers chop the ice for crappie and northern. Swanson has 3,000 acres of wildlife land open to public hunting for all game species, in season, and most hunting is found along the western reaches of the lake.



Red Willow SRA

Situated 11 miles north of McCook in south-west Frontier County, Red Willow Reservoir was completed in 1962. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission administers the lake's recreation and wildlife resources. Some of the finest fishing and hunting in the state are found here, and the Commission has built some excellent facilities for camping and water-oriented recreation.

At maximum pool, the lake covers 1,628 acres of the some 6,000 acres managed for public recreation and wildlife. The dam on Red Willow

Creek is a zoned, earth-filled structure, 126 feet high and 3,159 feet long. Completed in 1962, it measures 30 feet across at the top with a base 820 feet thick. The lake provides primary or supplemental irrigation for 28,524 acres of land.

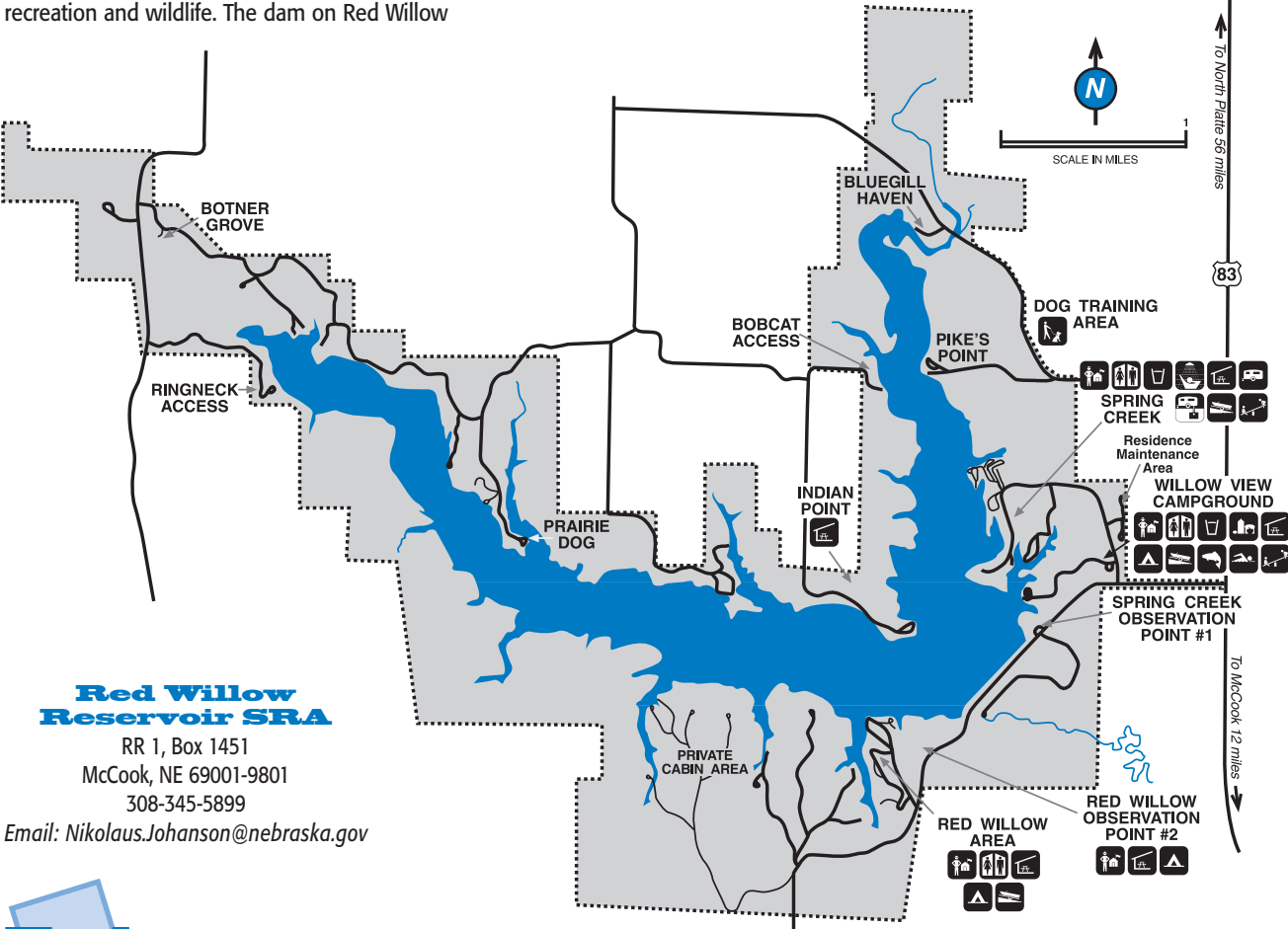
Dedicated bass fishermen are well-acquainted with its brushy shores (35 miles of them), submerged trees, and underwater structures. Red Willow is a haven for both large-mouth and smallmouth bass. Summer and winter crappie fishing is generally excellent in its tree-filled bays, and the

state hook-and-line records for white crappie and wiper came from Red Willow. White bass, northern pike, and walleye are favorites from spring through fall, and night fishing with lights is common along the face of the dam and in the narrow bays.

Camping and recreational facilities are new and modern. Top of the line camping is available at Willow View Campground, which offers 49 rock-surfaced pads (49 with 30- or 50-amp electrical hookups) and a panoramic view of the lake. There is a shower house, with modern restrooms. Pads have barbecue grills, and dump station is handy to the exit. A boat ramp has been added on the west side of the campground. Numerous other recreation sites are spotted strategically around the lake and offer tidy, but more primitive facilities. Areas like Bluegill, Bobwhite, Indian Point, and Pike's Point have camping, parking lots, some picnic shelters, drinking water, grills and vault toilets. Other picnic shelters and grills can be found in out-of-the-way locations for those who want a bit of privacy.

Near the concession and Kiwanis Point, there are two boat ramps, mooring docks, designated swimming beach, fish cleaning station, and modern restrooms. A fourth boat ramp is located south of the dam. The area concession is located on the Spring Creek access road and offers a restaurant, camping supplies, groceries, gas, bait, tackle, and has fishing, hunting and park entry permits available.

Pheasant, rabbit, and deer hunters like Red Willow's tall native grasses, brushy canyons, and shrub and tree plantings for wildlife. The area has good populations of pheasants and both white-tails and mule deer. Pheasant hunters will also put up an occasional covey of quail, and cotton-tails are plentiful in the draws and plum thickets. Duck hunters can do well on mallards, other dabblers, and some species of divers before the late-season freeze-up. On occasion, Canada geese can even be lured into range by decoys.



Enders SRA

This reservoir, 5 miles east and 4½ miles south of Imperial, has provided flood control and irrigation along the Frenchman River since 1951.

Like the other Southwest Reservoirs, Enders is a combination of recreational and wildlife lands, with the additional dedication of a portion of the area as a wildlife refuge in the fall and winter. Because of its refuge status, the recreational facilities have not been quite as extensively developed by the Game and Parks Commission as are the other three lakes in the complex.

The dam itself is a homogeneous, earth-filled structure, 134 feet high and 2,603 feet long. It is 30 feet wide at the top and a maximum of 670 feet at the base. It forms a 1,707-acre lake at top conservation pool, with 26 miles of shoreline. It stores water to irrigate some 21,100 acres of land. Rocky outcroppings along the south shore and in the northwest corner of the lake offer some spectacular views of the reservoir.

The main camping area parallels the east shore (Area A on the map) and has electrical hookups, picnic shelters, grills, drinking water, modern restrooms, fish cleaning station, and a trailer dump station. The Center Dam and Church Grove sites have picnic tables and fire grates for campers, as well as vault toilets. Center Dam has a boat ramp and several camping pads with 30-amp electrical hookups. Campers are welcome to pitch a tent at any of the more secluded sites around the lake. Groceries, bait, fishing, hunting, park entry permits and other needs are available at the village of Enders, just north of the lake on U.S. 6 & Nebr. 61.

Including the lake, the entire area encompasses 5,700 acres. Of the 4,000 acres of land, the Enders Wildlife Refuge covers 2,146 acres on the western

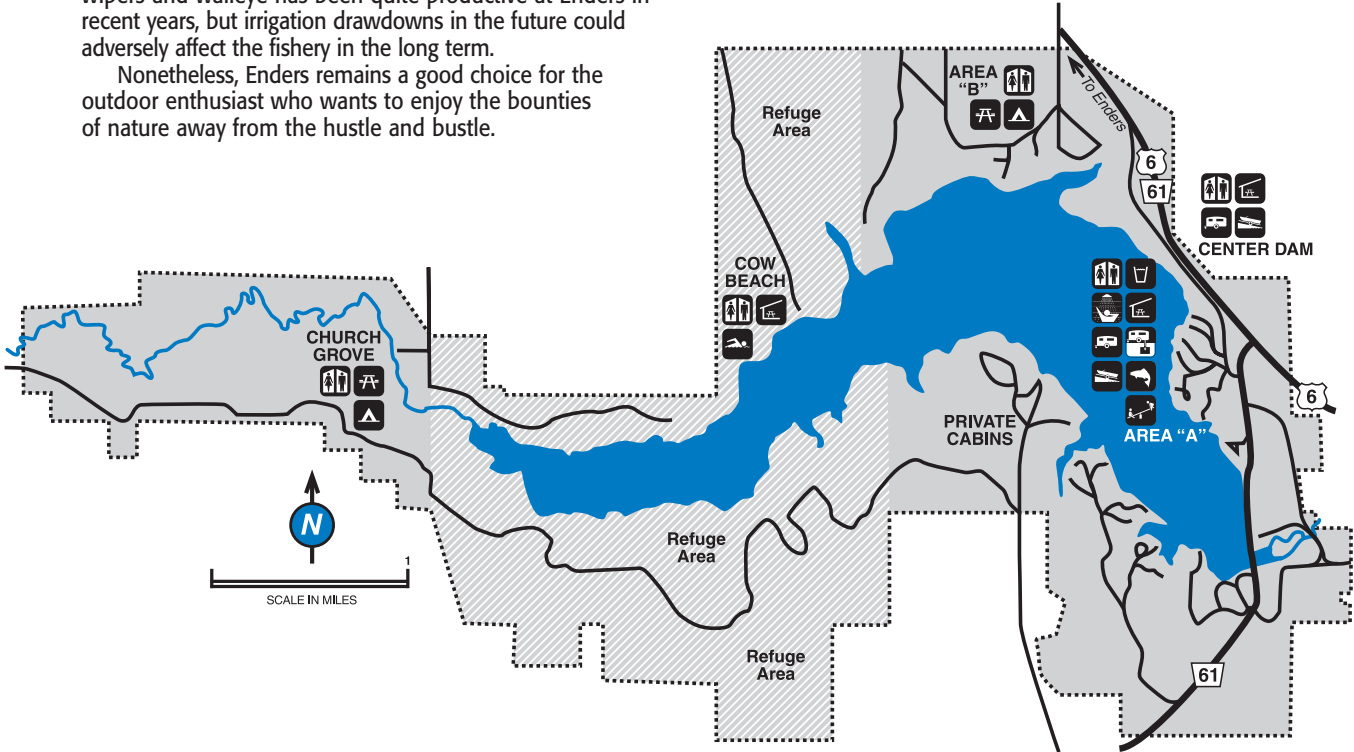
reaches of the lake. Hunting for big game, waterfowl, and upland game is allowed on public property along the river, west of the refuge, and on wildlife lands north and east of the protected area. Large flocks of mallards and geese winter on the open waters of the refuge, providing excellent huntable populations for waterfowlers. There are about 1,500 acres of wildlife lands, with managed habitat, open to hunters.

Fishing for white bass, crappie, catfish, northern pike, wipers and walleye has been quite productive at Enders in recent years, but irrigation drawdowns in the future could adversely affect the fishery in the long term.

Nonetheless, Enders remains a good choice for the outdoor enthusiast who wants to enjoy the bounties of nature away from the hustle and bustle.

Enders Reservoir SRA

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the Southwest Reservoirs

Swanson (continued)

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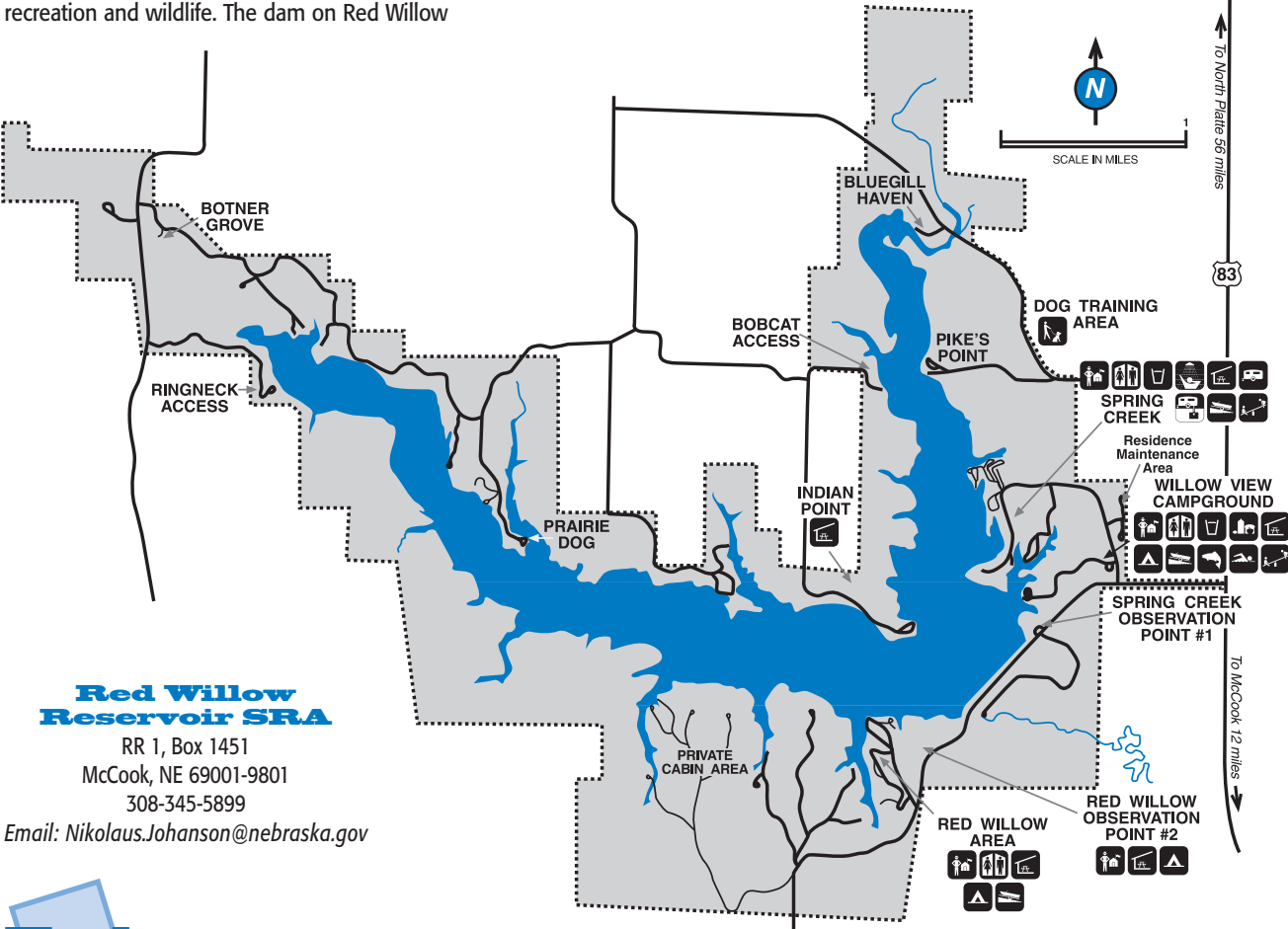
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